

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 IO-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 OIC-02 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-04 PRS-01 SAJ-01

SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 DODE-00 NSC-05 ACDA-05

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

CINCEUR

CINCPAC

CINCUSAREUR

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USIA WASHDC

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, UR, US

SUBJECT: PRAVDA "OBSERVER" ARTICLE ON ALLEGED SOVIET SALT VIOLATIONS

FOR POLADS

USIA FOR IOP, IBS, IPS, IBS, IEU

1. SUMMARY. PRAVDA JANUARY 1 CARRIES AN ARTICLE ON "THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC WEAPONS AND ITS OPPONENTS" SIGNED SIMPLY "OBSERVER," INDICATING THAT IT IS A POLICY STATEMENT FROM THE HIGHEST LEVELS OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT. THE ARTICLE REFUTES ACCUSATIONS THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS VIOLATED OR IS VIOLATING THE SALT-I AGREEMENTS (ADDING THAT THE SOVIET UNION STILL HAS UNANSWERED QUESTIONS ON U.S. IMPLEMENTATION), AND REAFFIRMS IN TERMS AS STRONG AS WE HAVE SEEN THE CONTINUING, UNDIMINISHED SOVIET INTEREST IN FURTHER STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION AGREEMENTS. IT DOES NOT GO INTO THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS IN DETAIL, NOTING ONLY THAT THEY ARE "VERY COMPLICATED," AND THAT "IT IS NOT THE FAULT OF THE SOVIET UNION" THAT AGREEMENT HAS NOT YET BEEN REACHED. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA JANUARY 1 "OBSERVER" ARTICLE PROVIDES MOST DETAILED PUBLIC SOVIET COMMENTARY ON SALT WHICH HAS APPEARED FOR SOME TIME. IT STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF FURTHER AGREEMENTS LIMITING STRATEGIC WEAPONS, TYING "THE FUTURE OF ALL STATES, WITHOUT EXCEPTION, AND OF ALL MANKIND" TO THE STABILITY OF THE "SHIELD" AGAINST THE THREAT OF NUCLEAR WAR WHICH CAN BE CONSTRUCTED THROUGH U.S.-SOVIET AGREEMENTS. IN THIS CONNECTION, IT CONTENTS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE NOT AT FAULT IF THE CURRENT SALT-II NEGOTIATIONS, "FOR ALL THEIR PROGRESS," HAVE NOT YET RESULTED IN AN AGREEMENT.

3. IT REFUTES ASSERTIONS BY "REACTIONARY CIRCLES" IN THE U.S. THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAS VIOLATED THE SALT-I AGREEMENT, SPECIFICALLY DENYING THAT NEW SILOS HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED IN THE SOVIET UNION AND THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS USING LASERS ("TECHNICAL MEANS") TO BLIND U.S. VERIFICATION SATELLITES. IT DOES NOT DISCUSS THESE CHARGES IN DETAIL, BUT RATHER REFUTES THEM BY AD

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PERSONAM ATTACKS ON SENATORS JACKSON AND BUCKLEY AND MESSRS. LAIRD AND ZUMWALT, WHOM IT PORTRAYS AS "OPEN OPPONENTS" OF DETENTE. IT STATES THAT THEIR ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION ARE SIMPLY FURTHER EFFORTS TO MAKE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT THE "ALREADY VERY COMPLICATED" SALT-II TALKS AND TO BRING DETENTE TO A HALT. IT FURTHER REFUTES THE ACCUSATIONS BY QUOTING STATEMENTS BY THE PRESIDENT, BY THE SECRETARY, AND BY SECRETARIES RUMSFELD AND SCHLESINGER THAT THE ACCUSATIONS HAVE BEEN LOOKED INTO AND HAVE

BEEN FOUND TO BE BASELESS.

4. THE ARTICLE CONTENDS THAT THE SCC IS THE PROPER PLACE TO SETTLE SUCH QUESTIONS, AND QUOTES DR. IKLE TO THE EFFECT THAT QUESTIONS ON IMPLEMENTATION OF SALT-I HAVE BEEN EXAMINED AND RESOLVED IN GENEVA. IT ALSO GIVES VOICE TO SOVIET PIQUE, HOWEVER, BY ADDING THAT NOT ALL OF THE SOVIET QUESTIONS REGARDING U.S. IMPLEMENTATION OF SALT-I HAVE YET BEEN ADEQUATELY ANSWERED.

5. COMMENT: THE ARTICLE DOES NOT GO BEYOND VERY GENERAL CHARACTERIZATIONS OF THE PRESENT SALT-II NEGOTIATIONS, AND DOES NOT MENTION ANY ISSUES CURRENTLY DELAYING ACHIEVEMENT OF AN AGREEMENT. IT SEEMS INTENDED PRIMARILY AS AN AUTHORITATIVE DENIAL OF SOVIET VIOLATIONS OF EARLIER STRATEGIC ARM LIMITATIONS. AT THE SAME TIME, IT STARTS THE NEW YEAR WITH A HIGH-LEVEL REAFFIRMATION OF SOVIET SERIOUSNESS AND COMMITMENT TO SALT SUCCESS.
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